

**February 28, 2014**

**Testimony in support of SB 126, An Act Concerning Children's Exposure to Chemicals**

**I wish to thank all the members of the Public Health Committee for the opportunity to give testimony today.**

**My name is June O'Neil and I am a member of Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice. I speak today in support of SB 126 , an Act Concerning Children's Exposure to Chemicals.**

**Hundreds of peer reviewed and replicated studies show strong links between exposure to toxic chemicals in every day products (such as mats, carpets, toys, personal care products and pajamas) to disturbing health trends such as:**

- **Childhood brain cancer and leukemia rising 20% since the 1970s**
- **A dramatic rise in learning and behavioral disorders**
- **A ten fold increase in Autism Spectrum Disorders in the last 15 years**
- **Significant rises in reproductive disorders , asthma and diabetes**

**The City Council of Hartford has gone on record as calling for comprehensive legislation to be passed to address the issue of toxic chemicals in children's products. This resolution points to the concern that common ingredients in plastics and toys have been shown to disrupt hormone systems, harm child brain and sexual development and impair long-term memory and that ingredients in personal care products have been linked to cancer, birth defects reproductive damage.**

**When every day products are incinerated in Hartford, the toxins are released into our air. These air borne toxins also contribute to the high rate of asthma and other problems in our neighborhoods. Thus members of my family and community suffer from exposure to these toxins by the air we breathe as well in the products we use.**

**We need SB 126 to help protect our children and community from toxic exposure in the products we use everyday and in the air we breathe !**